

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,145,981 to Akahira et al. ("Akahira"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an intermediate product, in which each element formation location of a row contains an amount of filter material at a given point in time, the amount of filter material contained in each element formation location of the row at the given point in time being less than an amount of filter material contained in each element formation location in the liquid crystal device.

Paragraphs [0075] - [0081] describe an example of how a row of element regions (corresponding to the "element formation locations" recited in claim 1) are all partially filled by a first nozzle, then filled more by a second nozzle, and so forth until the entire amount of material has been discharged, collectively, from the nozzles for each region. Because of this process, it is clear that, at a given point in time (e.g., after the first nozzle has passed a row of element regions and discharged material, but before the second nozzle has passed the row of element regions and discharged material), the amount of material contained in each element formation location is less than the amount of filter material contained in each element formation location in the liquid crystal device.

Akahira discloses no such concept or intermediate product. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinct from Akahira. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Akahira in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,504,599 to Okibayashi et al. ("Okibayashi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is similar to claim 1, but is for an electro-luminescent device.

Okibayashi fails to overcome the above-noted deficiency of Akahira with respect to claim 1. Therefore, at least because claim 2 recites features similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1, claim 2 is patentably distinct from the applied prior art.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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